FIRST MISSIONARY TO CHINA.

The first Protestant missionary to China was Rev. Robert Morrison, a Scotch Presbyterian minister, once a "last maker," just as Carey, the first missionary to India, was an Englishman, a "shoe maker."

Our picture shows him, with native assistants, at work translating into Chinese, the first Bible for the people of China.

It is now ninety years since Dr. Morrison went to China and the ninetieth anniversary of that event is to be celebrated in connection with the Christmas festival of the Chinese Mission in Montreal.

Rev. Dr. Thompson, our missionary to the Chinese in Montreal, tells the following interesting story of Mr. Morrison's work:

"Rev. Robert Morrison D.D., F.R.S., the Scotch Presbyterian 'last maker' of Morpeth, arrived at Macao, China, 4th Sep., 1807, a date ever to be remembered in connection with the beginning of Protestant Missions to China.

One great work that he did was the translation of the Bible into Chinese.

Confined in a godown, or basement room, assisted by a native, in terror of being discovered, he labored with great diligence, and with such success that his grammar and dictionary of the Chinese language were a great help to all China's missionaries, who came after him.

A still nobler work was his translation of

the Bible into the language of that Great Empire. The New Testament was published in 1814, the year in which he baptized his first Chinese convert to Protestant Christianty, " at a spring of water issuing from the foot of a lofty hill by the seaside, away from human observation " so read his Memoirs.

In 1818, assisted by Rev. Mr. Milne, who had arrived in 1813, he completed the translation of the entire Bible, though not issued till 1823. It was printed from wooden blocks, in twenty-one volumes.

In 1824, in poor health, he came back to Britain and was highly honored.

Two years later he returned to China, and in 1834, he was called to his rest and reward.